Public Facilities and Services

As an independent jurisdiction in Virginia, the City is responsible for, and places major emphasis upon, providing quality public facilities and services.

Public Facilities

Public facilities include buildings, spaces, infrastructure, and equipment that are publicly owned or used for the government and administration of the City and by the public for various purposes such as education and recreation. Many of these facilities in the City are historic structures that have withstood years of service.

City Hall was built in 1962 as the central facility for the administration of the City's government. When built, City Hall replaced the former Town Hall, which still stands on the corner of University Drive and Main Street, as well as various other buildings in which Town offices had been spread out. The City Manager and most department offices are located in City Hall, although some municipal functions are located in other facilities. The School Board and General Registrar are located in the Sisson House, on the City Hall grounds. The Police Department is located in its own building on Old Lee Highway, and the Fire Department operates from two fire stations located on Fairfax Boulevard and University Drive. In addition, the City's property yard on Pickett Road contains numerous Public Works functions (see Map PFS-1). The City also owns and operates the Goose Creek Water Treatment Plant in Loudoun County. In addition to serving the City of Fairfax, the facility also services parts of Loudoun and Fairfax Counties.

A newly constructed City Hall annex, completed in 2007, was designed to improve the efficiency of services to citizens and provide for necessary office space to accommodate the new services that have been added since the building was constructed. The annex, a 30,500 square foot addition, doubled the size of City Hall, and added space for the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Credit Union. The Sisson House remains the headquarters for City Schools.

In addition to the City Hall annex, a new police station was also completed in 2007. The station, a 32,200-square foot building located on the grounds of the former station on Old Lee Highway, includes modern features and rooms needed for up-to-date police operations and technological requirements.

Fire Station #3, owned by the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, houses the Fire and Rescue Department. Additionally, Fire Station #33 on Fairfax Boulevard, the Property Yard on Pickett Road, a water treatment plant in eastern Loudoun County, three water towers, and four sewage pumping stations are under the City's ownership. The City also owns Green Acres, a former school, which now has a senior center and community classes offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. Part of the building is leased to a daycare center. The City School Board owns four properties currently used as schools: Fairfax High School, Lanier Middle School, Daniels Run Elementary School and Providence Elementary School, plus one additional property at the former Westmore Elementary School.

In 2011, the City opened the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center. This new building has performance space and is used for many City cultural events and classes. Funding for this facility was provided by a donation from the Sherwood family. With the recent addition of several new facilities, the City has rental space available for private functions at several locations including the Sherwood Center, Old Town Hall and the Blenheim Interpretive Center.

The City also owns historic buildings that are popular facilities for social and educational use. The Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center is housed in the Old Fairfax Elementary School, which was originally constructed in 1873. Old Town Hall, built in 1900, has served the community as a popular social and meeting place throughout its history. Old Town Hall also houses the Huddleson Library on the second floor which displays a collection of Civil War works, Virginia history books, as well as paintings and photography from local artists. Old Town Hall also houses the Huddleson Library on the second floor which displays a collection of Civil War works, Virginia history books, as well as paintings and photography from local artists. The Ratcliffe-Allison House was built in 1812 with subsequent additions in the 1820s and 1920s. The Blenheim Estate, built around 1855, was used during the Civil War as a hospital; the attic of main building contains some of the best-preserved examples of Civil War graffiti in the nation, while the estate grounds are home to the annual Civil War Encampment. Blenheim is now home to the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic

Map PFS-1
Public Facilities

SOURCE: City of Fairfax CDP
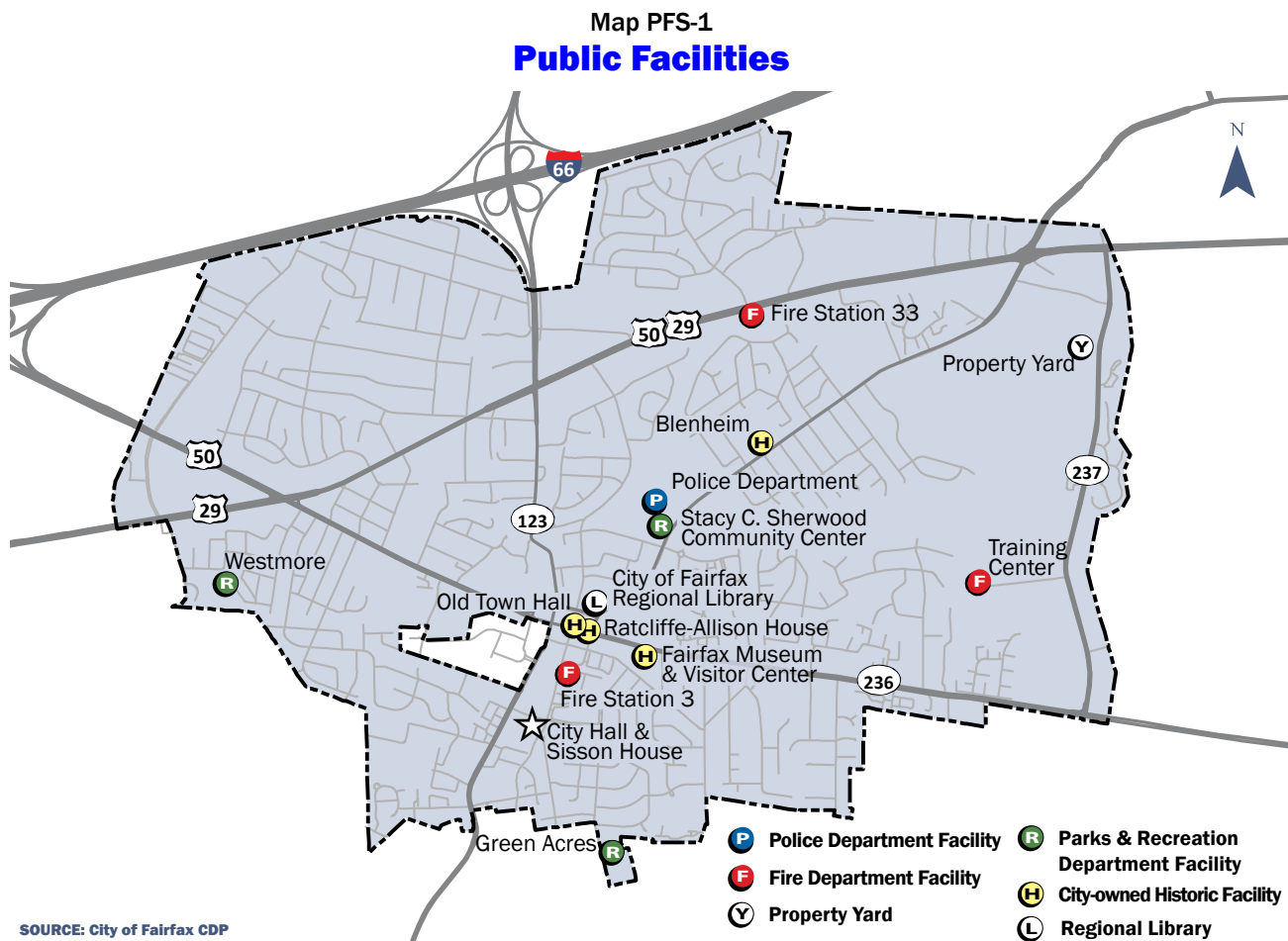
Blenheim, and includes educational space, an exhibition gallery, and a gift shop. Blenheim is also the location of Grandma's Cottage, a log-wall and hewn timber framed house which was once the home of the daughter of the owner of the Blenheim estate. The cottage was moved to its current location at Blenheim in 2001 after having already been moved once from its original location near the corner of Main Street and Old Lee Highway to Old Lee Highway near Layton Hall Drive in 1962. All of these historic sites have undergone repair and renovation and several are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2009, the City Council approved a resolution incorporating green building practices and climate protection strategies for development and operations in the City. As part of this resolution, the City Council committed to supporting green building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system and establishing LEED Silver or equivalent as the goal for all public facilities. In addition, to improve the efficiency of existing City facilities, the City Council has provided direction to conduct audits of all facilities to see if energy retrofits or new energy efficient systems can be funded through a performance contract.

Through this state approved process, localities can fund energy retrofits through the utility savings achieved over a specified time period without any upfront costs. This work supports the City's efforts to reduce energy use and related greenhouse gas emissions.

City Schools

Administration and Enrollment

Since 1994, the voters in regular City elections have elected the City's School Board at large. The School Board has responsibility for the education of approximately 2,700 or 90% of all students living within the City of Fairfax. The Board monitors the implementation of the School Services Agreement between the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The Board acts as a "checks and balances" entity for ensuring equal distribution of educational opportunities for City students. This allows for the same pupil-teacher ratios, instructional support, supplies and textbooks, and program availability for all students including special education, English for Speakers of Other

Languages, Advanced Academic Programs, as well as equal access to the County's magnet programs such as Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Day-to-day operational oversight and minor maintenance of the City's schools is provided through the School Services Agreement. However, the School Board is totally responsible for the major maintenance, minor and major capital improvements, and new construction as they relate to the four City-owned facilities.

In 2010, Fairfax County residents accounted for 1 percent of Daniels Run's and 32 percent of Providence's enrollment, the City's elementary schools; 63 percent of intermediate school Lanier's enrollment; and 64 percent of Fairfax High School enrollment (see Figure PFS-1).

The City's four schools have all been renovated since 2000, but as of 2010, all exceeded 90 percent of enrollment capacity (see Table PFS-2). The reasons of this situation are complex, but a major factor has been a larger-than-anticipated growth in enrollment – particularly at the Elementary School level during the 2000s. In 2010, three of the four schools operated above 100 percent capacity; Daniels Run Elementary at 106 percent capacity; Providence Elementary at 110 percent; and Lanier Middle at 103 percent. As of 2010 enrollment data, Fairfax High School was operating at 99 percent of capacity; however, 2011 projected enrollment predicts the school will be operating over capacity at 108 percent.

With an overall population that is older than that of Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax has many housing units that are occupied by older residents without children. As those owners sell their houses, the new owners are much more likely to have children. A high rate of such types of property transfer would have the potential to rapidly increase the number of school enrollees without adding units to the City's housing stock. New construction has also played a role in the

Figure PFS-1
Student Enrollment in City Schools
September 2010
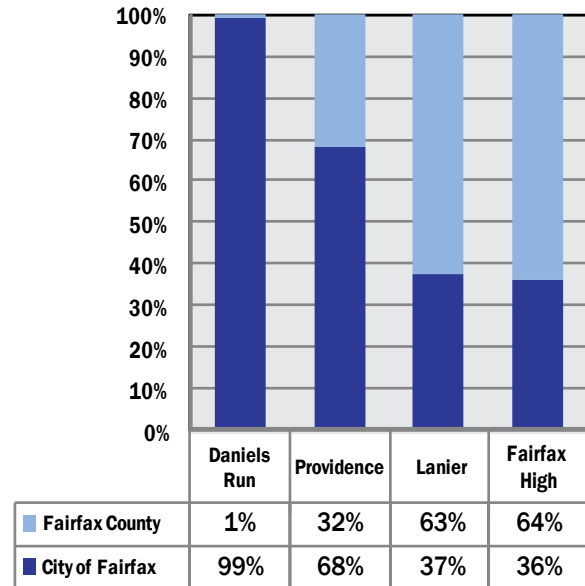
	Daniels Run	Providence	Lanier	Fairfax High
Fairfax County	1%	32%	63%	64%
City of Fairfax	99%	68%	37%	36%

Source: FY 2012-16 Capital Improvement Program, Office of Facilities Planning Services, Fairfax County Public Schools

enrollment increase, with developments since 2004 adding 266 new homes to the City's housing stock.

Furthermore, demographic changes resulting from the real estate boom and bust of the last several years appear to have increased the number of school enrollment coming from multifamily housing. This phenomenon has occurred throughout Northern Virginia, and although the causes are elusive, it is clear that more families with children are living in multifamily complexes now than they were just a few years ago. However, the 2010 census showed a less-than-

Table PFS-2
City of Fairfax Schools Capacity/Enrollment

School	2010 Capacity	2005 Actual Enrollment	2010 Actual Enrollment	2010 Percentage of Capacity	2011 Projected Enrollment	2015 Projected Enrollment
Fairfax High	2,389	2,070	2,375	99%	2,580	2,797
Lanier Middle	1,200	979	1,236	103%	1,175	1,408
Daniels Run	742	767	783	106%	798	883
Providence	843	763	929	110%	916	925

Source: FY 2012-16 Capital Improvement Program, Office of Facilities Planning Services, Fairfax County Public Schools

expected growth in younger age ranges in the City, especially in the under-5 range.

City school enrollment over the last ten years has ranged from a decrease of 1.4% in 2005 to the largest overall student increase in 2009 of 4.4%. (see Figure PFS-3). Between the 2000 and 2010 school years elementary school enrollment increased 15.5%, middle school increased 18.2% and high school increased 2.8%.

When enrollment approaches a facility's capacity, there are several avenues of recourse, ranging from school boundary adjustments to installing temporary facilities at the schools to accommodate the increased enrollment. However, there is a large difference in facility needs when comparing a temporary enrollment jump to a permanent one – if it appears that the schools will see sustained enrollment increases in the coming years, then it may be necessary to plan for additional permanent capacity.

The City's School Board closely monitors current and projected enrollment trends along with FCPS. Both the City and County school administrations are committed to operating all of the City's schools with a sufficient student population that will assure a full and viable program of studies in each school.

Programs

Students in City of Fairfax schools are afforded the same programs and opportunities offered through the Program of Studies implemented in all County schools. Daniels Run and Providence elementary schools are focus schools with strong emphases on mathematics, science, and technology, with labs and additional support staff to enhance the mission of the schools. In addition, as a result of the consolidation of the elementary schools, the elementary program has added full-day kindergarten, Latin, and reduced-ratio first grade, which enabled the City schools to offer programs that are only available in City Schools. Both Daniels Run and Providence Elementary are among the first in the region to offer world language instruction to all students. Students at Providence Elementary begin learning Chinese in the first grade and the Latin program begins in third grade at both elementary schools. Both elementary schools also have an on-site School Age Child Care (SACC) program that provides day care for children before and after school. Fairfax High School was identified as one of the "Top 100 U.S. Schools" based on the number of Advanced Placement (AP) and International baccalaureate (IB) tests taken by students in May 2003. Daniels Run, Lanier and Fairfax High all received 2011 Board of Education Excellence Awards. Daniels Run Elementary School

Figure PFS-3

City of Fairfax September Membership
School Years 2000 - 2010
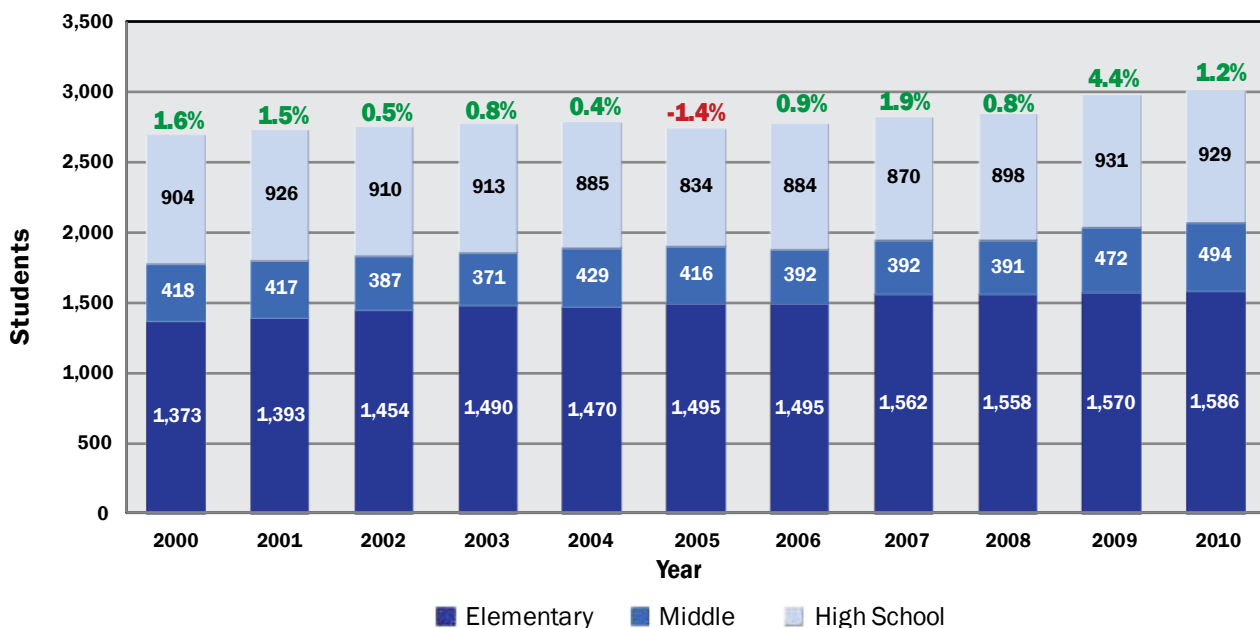
Source: FY 2012-16 Capital Improvement Program, Office of Facilities Planning Services, Fairfax County Public Schools

also received the Virginia Naturally Schools designation for four consecutive years; a recognition by the Virginia Department of Education for efforts which have resulted in an increased environmental awareness and stewardship. Lanier Middle was awarded the Eco-Schools USA Silver Award from the National Wildlife Federation in 2010. The City of Fairfax takes pride in its commitment to community use for all the City schools facilities, which has resulted in extensive non-primary use of school facilities. For example, each of the City schools has a summer recreation program and provides space for multiple events and activities throughout the school year.

Students requiring special programs not available in City schools can enroll without additional cost in Fairfax County schools where those programs are offered. In addition, the pupil placement agreement between the City and Fairfax County allows for the enrollment of City students in County schools with special permission. Special programs available to students include professional technical studies, special education, Head Start, and the gifted and talented program. In the 2010-11 school year, 90 percent of City school children who attended public schools were enrolled in one of the four City schools; The majority of the City students enrolled in County-owned schools are accessing special programs such as Advanced Academic Programs and Thomas Jefferson High School.

Technology Programs

Upgrading technology and networking infrastructure in City of Fairfax Schools continues to be critical to enable information sharing, instructional delivery, and administrative support for student learning both in the classroom and beyond. The use of the Internet for student research and communications continues to grow exponentially and is an essential element of the instructional program. The use of wireless laptops has expanded in City schools due to increased flexibility and critical space shortages. Improving the wireless infrastructure will allow schools to take full advantage of this emerging technology. Growth in computer availability and use for students and teachers, along with new state-mandated programs for reporting and online assessment, has created new requirements for infrastructure and electrical upgrades to our networks. Nearly every classroom at all four City schools is equipped with a Smart Board and each school has computer labs with many classes incorporating laptops into lesson plans. Since 2008, the City schools have maintained an overall average of 1.6 student-to-computer for all computers up to ten years old and an average of 2.2 student-to- 5 years or newer computer in the 2010-11 school year (see Figure PFS-4). In order to meet these new and expanding

instructional and administrative requirements, the City School Board will continue to offer support for additional funds to enable school to meet the requirements for the use of technology.

Figure PFS-4

School Computer Totals
with Student-to-Computer
(5 years or newer) Ratios
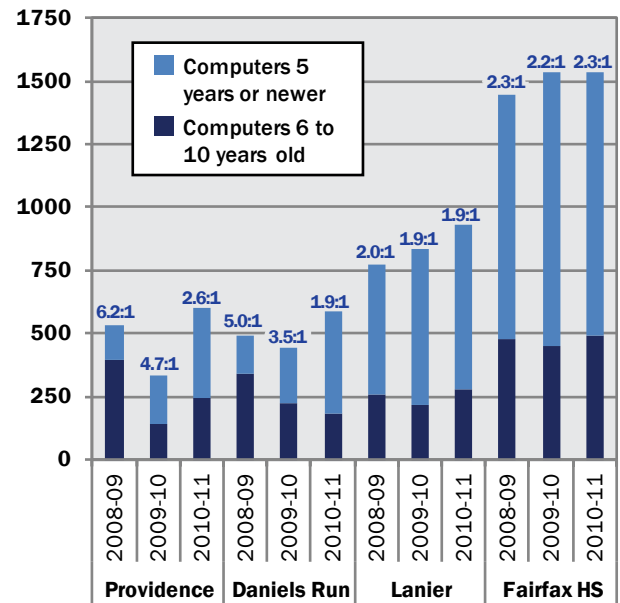
Source: Fairfax County Public Schools

School Facilities

The City owns all four of its schools including Providence and Daniels Run Elementary Schools serving grades K-6; Sidney Lanier Middle School, serving grades 7-8; and Fairfax High School, serving grades 9-12 (see Map PFS-2). A 1997 school bond referendum approved the consolidation of the four City-owned elementary schools into two – the current Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools. The consolidation and renovation of these two schools was completed in 2000. The two vacated schools remain in public ownership: Westmore and Green Acres, the latter of which serves as a community center operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. Staffing standards used for City and County schools are based upon the ratio of 26.25students per teacher for grades 1 through 6. State initiatives for kindergarten through third grade allow a maximum class size cap of 1 teacher for 22-24 students, depending on the percentage of students eligible for free meals. The average division wide middle school ratio (grades 7-8) is 1 teacher for 24.5 students and high school ratio (grades 9-12) is 1 teacher for 25.2 students.

Map PFS-2
City Public Schools and Local Colleges
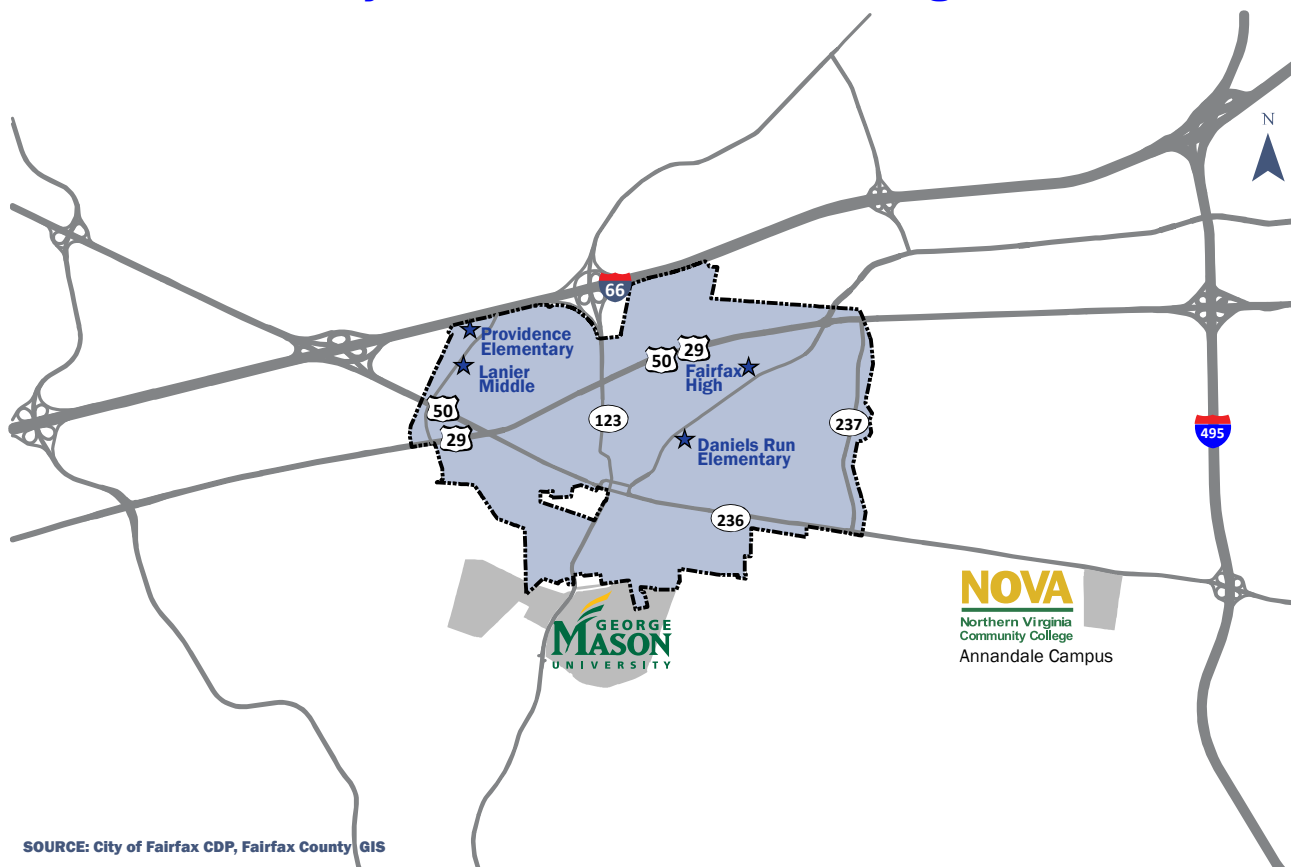
Improvement and expansion of school facilities are accomplished through the City's Capital Improvement Programming process. School projects completed recently include major reconstructions of the City's elementary schools; a 300-seat auditorium, full gymnasium, music room addition, and Home Economics Department renovation at Sidney Lanier Middle School; and a central air conditioning installation program for all City schools.

Previous studies of the facility needs of Sidney Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High School, constructed in 1962 and 1971 respectively, revealed that both of these schools also needed major renovations. As a result, City voters approved a 2004 school bond referendum to provide funds for capital improvement projects for the public school system, including the renovation of Sidney Lanier Middle School and Fairfax High School. The High School and Middle School renovations were completed in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

Because all four City Schools have been renovated within the last ten years, no major new facility improvements are foreseen in the near future; all schools meet current education specifications. Facility improvements in the coming years will likely be limited to maintenance and select improvements. Both elementary schools will likely see increased maintenance needs for grounds (paving, concrete), HVAC systems, and roofing maintenance. The School Board, through the superintendent's office, continues to evaluate all school facilities for current and future program needs.

Colleges and Universities

Two major schools of higher education are located near the City (see Map PFS-2). The Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Annandale Campus is located 2.5 miles east of the City on Little River Turnpike, and George Mason University (GMU) is located on the City's southern border.

Northern Virginia Community College, opened in 1964, is a two-year State-supported regional college with campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun County, Manassas and Woodbridge. The main campus, located in nearby Annandale, is built on nearly 80 acres in addition to 8 other campus sites and educational centers in different localities.

Enrollment at the nearby Annandale campus, the largest in the NVCC system, was 19,308 during the 2008-09 school year and served at total of 72,563 students for all five campuses in the 2009-10 academic year. The City provides its regional share of funding for the Community College through its annual budget.

The main George Mason University (GMU) campus is located at the City's southern boundary. In 1959, the City assisted in the establishment of the campus, originally a branch of the University of Virginia, with the donation of 137 acres of the now-600 acre campus. Enrollment at the GMU Fairfax Campus has increased quickly since the university was established. Founded in 1966, the 1980 enrollment was 12,785; by 1990 it was 20,224 and by the 2010 academic year, 32,432 students (23,989 full-time equivalent students) were enrolled at GMU's Fairfax campus (see Figure PFS-5).
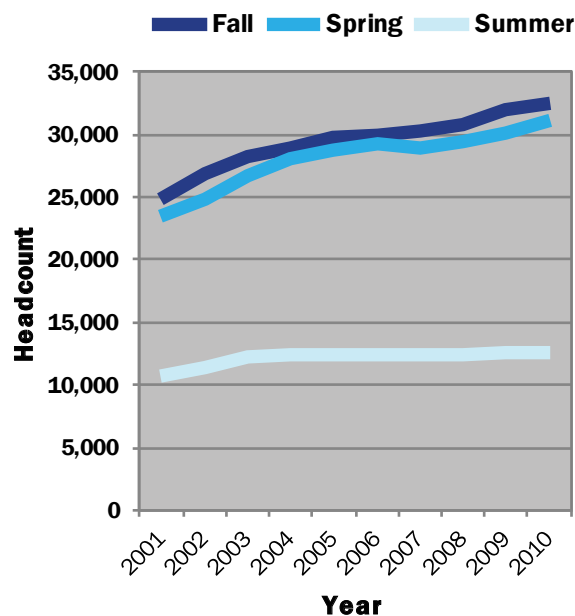
The University projects enrollment at its Fairfax campus to stabilize as more students enroll at GMU's Prince William and Arlington campuses – at present 85 percent of GMU students are enrolled at Fairfax, but the University expects that number to decrease to 59 percent by 2020. Although the number of students at the Fairfax campus is expected to stabilize, the composition of those students will change, with a greater proportion of students attending full-time and living on campus. As of 2010, approximately 58 percent of

Fairfax campus students attend full-time, and roughly 5,000 students live on campus. The university is expanding its residential enrollment, and expects full build out of its residential facilities to be completed by 2020 with a projected capacity of 6,500 students.

The majority of the University's students and many faculty and staff live off-campus. As a result, University-related traffic and parking are critical concerns of the City. At present GMU offers approximately 12,200 parking spaces. Peak parking utilization typically occurs midday when 72 percent of capacity is occupied. In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion, the City-owned and operated CUE Bus Service provides transit service between George Mason University, the City of Fairfax, and the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station. University faculty, staff and students ride the CUE buses free, and George Mason University contributes toward funding the system. Additionally, GMU operates its own "Mason to Metro" shuttle service as well as campus circulator and intercampus shuttles. Construction of on-campus housing for faculty, staff and full-time graduate students, a complex of 157 townhomes and apartments called Masonvale, was completed in 2010.

The University provides recreational and cultural facilities and programs for the entire Northern Virginia region. The most prominent of these is the Patriot Center, a 10,000-seat arena featuring sports, musical arts, theater and family shows. In addition, the University's Center for the Arts, a 2,000-seat facility housing musical and theatrical productions, was opened in 1990.

Libraries

Library Service is provided to the City by Fairfax County under a contractual arrangement based on population. City residents may use any of eight regional and fourteen community libraries that compose the library system. This system includes over 2.5 million items as of 2009. The City of Fairfax Regional Library, located on North Street, is used most frequently by City residents. This library is the largest in the County system, with a collection of 221,736 volumes including reference titles and a 2010 calendar year circulation of 916,563 items checked out. The library has three special collections — the Virginia Room, which contains materials for genealogy and state and local history, a large business collection and collection of Korean language materials.

The Library's current building, at the intersection of Old Lee Highway and North Street, was built in 2008, and replaced the smaller, 1962 library structure on Chain Bridge Road. At over 44,000 square feet, and with a 200-space

Figure PFS-5
GMU Enrollment, 2001 - 2010

Source: George Mason University Official Census Student Enrollment

parking garage, the new building greatly enhances the public's access to the library's collections. In addition, the library has meeting rooms and conference rooms that are rented to private groups, making the library a premier community-based amenity for the City's downtown. The design and function of the new facility complements other redevelopment efforts and is a main component to the revitalization of Old Town.

Public Utilities

Water System

The principal source of water for the City is Goose Creek in Loudoun County. The City owns and maintains two water reservoirs in Loudoun County, seven miles northwest of Sterling Park (see Map PFS-3). The smaller of the two reservoirs, located on Goose Creek, holds 200 million gallons of water. The second, Beaverdam Creek reservoir, is located two miles upstream and impounds 1.3 billion gallons of water. Together, these reservoirs ensure the City of a four-month supply of water against drought and low flow in Goose Creek. The combined safe yield from the two reservoirs is 12 million gallons per day (MGD). The safe yield of the system can be increased to 15 MGD by raising the overflow level of the spillway by five feet at the Beaverdam Creek Reservoir. The City is currently authorized to remove up to 15 MGD from Goose Creek. The Beaver Dam Creek Dam and Reservoir is aging and in need of refurbishment as well as process enhancements in order to meet stringent regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. As such, the 2011 Water Utility CIP included a two-year program which calls for a structural investigation and study

Map PFS-3
Water Transmission Lines
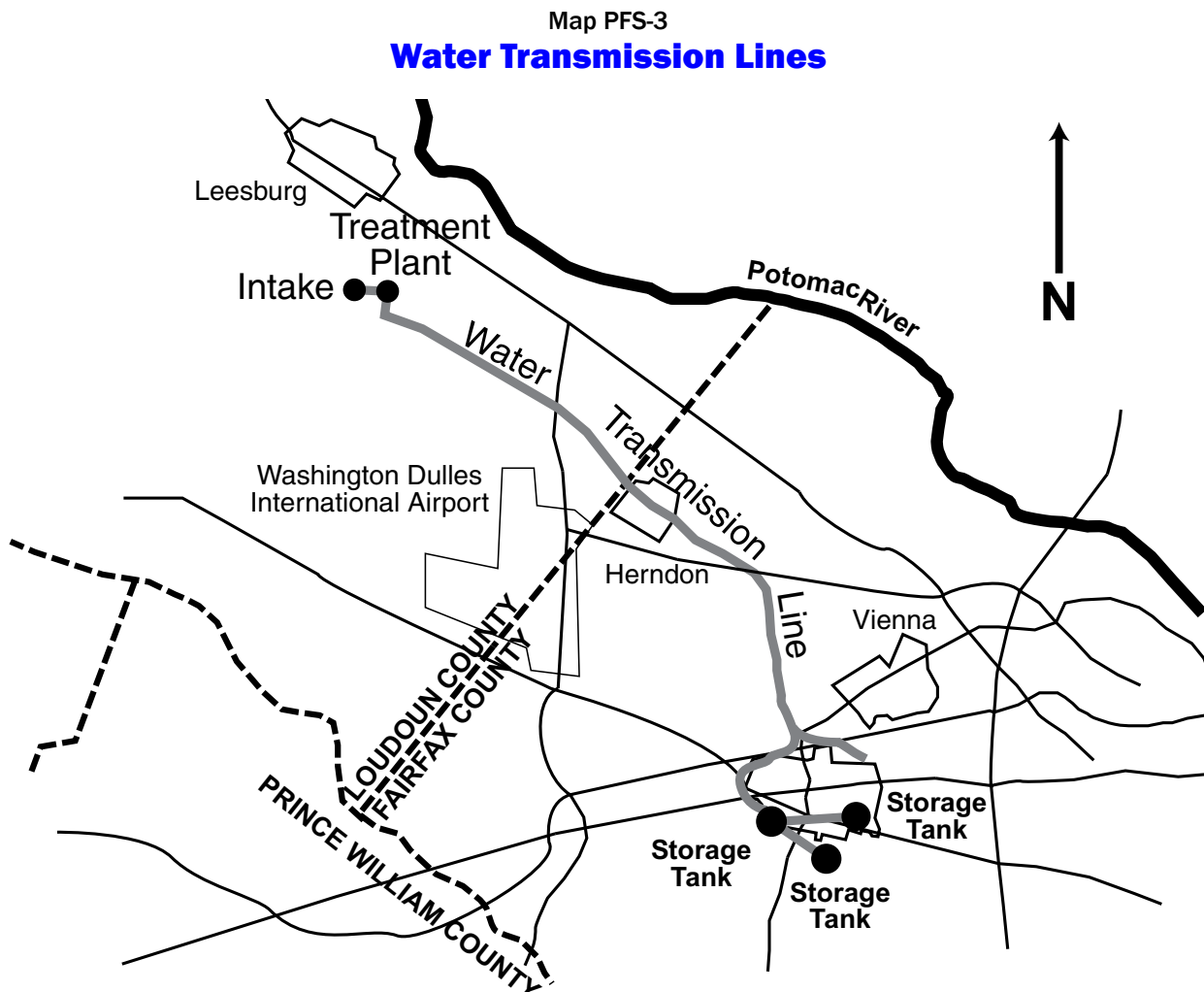
Source: City of Fairfax Utilities Department

to determine the most cost-effective method to pass 100 percent of Probable Maximum Flood (PMF), where it is currently designed to facilitate 75 percent of PMF.

Water withdrawn from Goose Creek Reservoir is pumped to the City-owned water treatment plant one-half mile east of the reservoir. The treatment plant has a rated capacity of 12 MGD volume and a peak capacity of 18 MGD. A 1992 study revealed the silt accumulation at the Goose Creek Reservoir had reduced available water capacity by 50 percent since its construction in the 1960s. In 1997, the City completed a dredging operation that successfully bought the reservoir back to full capacity. The treatment plant will be upgraded and refurbished by replacement of all raw and high service pumping equipment and motors; new chemical storage involving liquid chlorine and possibly liquid ammonia to suit Loudoun County's disinfection preference as detailed in the 2011 Water Utility CIP.

The City's main water transmission line extends 22 miles from the treatment plant along the Washington and Old Dominion (W&OD) bike path. Parallel mains run along Hunter Mill Road from the W&OD bike path to the distribution system at Blake Lane. The water is stored in three water storage tanks, one on William Place and one behind Lyndhurst Drive in the City, and one on the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University. The three storage tanks have a combined capacity of 8.9 million gallons.

Maintenance of the water distribution system includes repairing water main breaks and periodic hydrant replacement and repair. The main transmission system is over 40 years old and is showing signs of deterioration at the joints. The City's 2009 CIP included a project for an engineering evaluation and phased design for rehabilitation of the joints of the transmission system.

The water distribution system serves not only the City, but also portions of Fairfax County immediately north, south and east of the City (see Map PFS-4). The City currently wholesales water to both Loudoun Water and Fairfax Water. Loudoun Water plans to build its own Potomac River water supply and treatment plant in the near future. It is projected that the City will no longer be wholesaling to Loudoun after 2017.

In 2010, the system-wide water demand averaged 12 MGD with a peak production of 18 MGD. The average demand has not significantly increased or decreased over the last ten years. The service area boundaries are fixed and the area is almost completely developed. The water system will, therefore, meet the City's needs into the foreseeable future.

Water Service Area

Source: City of Fairfax Utilities Department
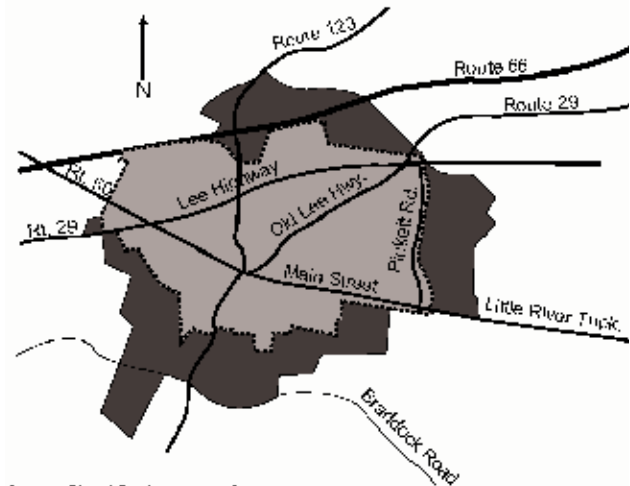
Sewer System

The City of Fairfax operates its own wastewater collection system. The waste collected is metered and discharged to the Norman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant owned and operated by Fairfax County under a contractual agreement. The City has contract rights to 6.7 percent of the plant's capacity; 4.2 million gallons per day (MGD). This plant is scheduled to be upgraded and refurbished by the County over the next ten years. The City maintains 100 miles of sewer lines, four sewage pumping stations, and one sewage meter vault. The sewer trunk system was replaced and enlarged in the 1970s to match the Fairfax County system. The life expectancy of the trunk system is estimated to be 50 to 100 years.

Maintenance of the system includes periodic video inspection of faulty sewage lines. The City employs a reactive maintenance detailed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Of particular concern is the possibility of sewage leaks in pipes under the streams and groundwater. The City's ongoing program of replacement, lining or concrete encasement of these pipes helps to assure prevention of such leaks. In addition, the City's CIP carries an ongoing project for lining sewer manholes to correct damage to these manholes caused by hydrogen sulfide gas that emanates from the sewage. Altogether the City lines about 3,900 linear feet of sewer pipe per year.

While most locations within the City are served by gravity sewerage, the system includes four sewage pumping stations. The City rehabilitated all four stations (at San Juan Drive,

Andes Drive, Byrd Drive and School Street) between 2002 and 2005; the meter vault located at the City property yard was renovated in 2009-10.

The City of Fairfax sewer service area includes the entire City as well as the Fairfax Villa and University Square subdivisions located southwest of the City and a small area north of the City (see Map PFS-5). In FY 2010, the City used an average of 3.9 MGD in sewage capacity, with a peak usage of 4.1 MGD. Since the City has the contract rights to 4.2 MGD, the City has adequate sewage capacity. Within the City, all areas are adequately served by sewer service. However, increased densities in certain areas of the City will require the addition of a pumping station and sewer lines.

Map PFS-5
Sewer Service Area

Source: City of Fairfax Utilities Department
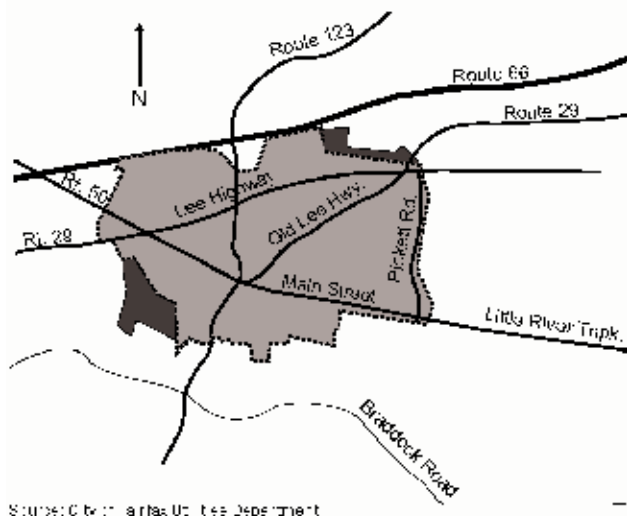
Stormwater System

The Public Works Department Storm Drainage Crew maintains the City's storm drain system which consists of approximately 60 miles of stormwater pipes, ditch lines and culverts. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the Public Works Department performed 7,540 man-hours of preventive maintenance to storm drainage system; replaced 114 linear feet of existing storm pipe; installed 120 linear ft of new storm pipe; and applied 2,500 man-hours toward infrastructure projects.

In order to reduce the flooding at the intersection of Fairfax Boulevard and Chain Bridge Road, a storm sewer system serving the Fairfax Boulevard corridor from the northwest corner of Fairfax Boulevard and Chain Bridge Road to Eaton Place will be replaced. The intersection of Fairfax

Boulevard and Chain Bridge Road will also be improved. Other major projects included Hill Street storm system rehab; storm drainage improvements at dead-end of Fern Street; Trapp Road drainage ditch and storm structure improvements; Howerton Avenue and Estel Road driveway pipe improvements and replacement of V ditch; and installation of storm pipe and 5 catch basins on Berritt Street.

The City's current inventory of Stormwater Management Facilities includes 21 Dry Pond Systems, 1 Wet Pond System, 22 Filter Systems, 53 Underground Detention Systems, 23 Retention Systems and approximately 112 Oil/Grit Separators. The Department has begun mapping all known inlets and outfalls as part of a GIS system and overall Storm Sewer System Map.

Electric, Telephone and Cable Service

The City does not own or operate any electric, telephone or cable utilities. It does, however, own the rights-of-way where transmission lines are located. Approximately 67 miles of streets contain utility poles supporting overhead electric, telephone, and cable television wires. These overhead wires are a distracting element within the streetscape and present a maintenance concern. Trees must be trimmed away from the overhead lines on a regular basis, resulting in odd-shaped and unnatural-looking trees that cannot grow to their fullest potential.

The most significant obstacle to placing utilities underground is the construction cost. Although telephone and cable television lines can be buried for a reasonable cost, electric power lines can require special concrete-enclosed conduit and significant material and labor costs to locate underground. Local utilities (Dominion Virginia Power, Cox, and Verizon) operate within the City only through franchise agreements that are negotiated between the City and the utility companies. While the City can renegotiate these agreements, it cannot, at this time, require that the utility bear the cost of the conversion of overhead facilities to underground facilities. However, cooperative efforts between private and public organizations, particularly in redevelopment areas, will eventually accomplish undergrounding of utilities in accordance with the Community Appearance Plan.

The City encourages undergrounding utilities through redevelopment efforts. In 2006, the City undertook a multi-phased undergrounding utilities project in Old Town Village and the surrounding area. While there is significant public benefit from utility undergrounding, such benefit is realized more on larger projects such as Old Town than on smaller

ones. A small project that undergrounds only the utilities on one site, and leaves poles on adjacent sites standing does not necessarily provide benefit in proportion to the cost of moving the utilities underground. This is particularly true of projects in areas that are already mostly developed – i.e., where there are unlikely to be future redevelopments in proximity to the current site.

Telecommunications

 A major trend in local and regional telecommunications infrastructure planning has been the proliferation of facilities and apparatus, particularly for wireless communications. As demand for these services has risen, so has the need for additional towers and building-mounted antennas to accommodate the increase in services. While necessary for effective and reliable communication, telecommunications facilities, particularly a proliferation of highly visible structures and towers, can create unattractive visual clutter. To ensure that telecommunications facilities are developed in the best possible manner – both in terms of communication performance and community appearance – the City has implemented a policy for the design and siting of telecommunications facilities.

This policy seeks to mitigate potential negative impacts of such facilities and to ensure compatibility with proximate land uses by establishing the following objectives:

- Require co-location of commercial telecom-munication facilities on existing structures and towers;

- Attempt to ensure compatibility of telecommuni-cation facilities with nearby land uses; and

- Establish siting and design criteria to mitigate negative impacts, such as by designing facilities to reduce their visual prominence.

Similar to how the Internet has become a critical element for business, it has also greatly improved how local governments can interact with and provide information to residents and businesses. The City's website is often the first stop for individuals seeking information about City services and activities. As such, all City departments prioritize website updates and improving access to relevant information and services. In addition to gaining information, individuals may pay taxes and utility charges online, access the CUE NextBus tracking system, and find links to new or major topics within City government. Furthermore, public access to government proceedings continues to improve with the ability to view government proceedings and public meetings online (live or archived) and to access the *CityScene* newsletter.

Public Services

Solid Waste

The City provides weekly refuse collection for residents in single-family homes (including townhouses). City businesses and residents of apartments and condominiums utilize private trash service. Weekly curbside recycling and yard waste pickup are also provided to private residences; participation in residential recycling is mandatory. Special pickup service is available for "white goods" (such as refrigerators, stoves and hot water heaters) and large brush and limbs and construction debris, upon request of the homeowner.

As of 2009, all City businesses have been required to implement a recycling program, including filing an annual report with the City, detailing the types of materials recycled and the estimated volume of each material.

All refuse from regular trash collection is taken to the Fairfax County transfer station located at the I-66 landfill. From there, the County hauls the refuse to the I-95 waste-to-energy facility. The County is under contract to accept all of the City's solid waste.

The City has implemented a "single-stream" curbside recycling program which allows all acceptable items to be placed in one container to be separated at the facility. The types of acceptable items has increased as well to allow newspapers, glass bottles, plastics, aluminum, cardboard, paperboard, magazines, and mixed paper including catalogs and phone books. In addition to the items collected curbside, motor oil and oil filters, household batteries and antifreeze are collected at the City's property yard, where they are picked up by private contractors who pay the City on a per-pound basis.

Fire and Rescue

The department of Fire and Rescue Services is organized into three divisions – Administration, Fire and EMS Operations and Code Administration. The Department includes 80 career fire fighters, paramedics and support staff and 40 volunteers in 2011.

The Department furnishes fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical services and emergency transportation and health care facilities both within the City and in an approximately 14 square mile area of Fairfax County. In return, the County provides a computer-aided dispatch (CAD) service for all fire and rescue vehicles as well as "first due" engines and rescue

response in the area of the Pickett Road tank farm and backup in the rest of the City. In 2010, the Department responded to 1,426fire calls, 4,514 emergency medical calls and 292 public service calls. This represented an 18 percent decrease in fire calls, 64 percent increase in emergency medical calls and a 19 percent increase in public service calls since 2005 (see Figure PFS-6).

The Department of Fire and Rescue Services operates from three facilities. Station #3 is the main station and is owned by the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, which also owns all of the heavy equipment and light vehicles. The City maintains the vehicles, trains the volunteer firefighters, and pays a portion of the utilities. In return, Station #3, renovated by the City, provides living space for nine full-time firefighters at no cost and houses the City's Fire and Rescue Services administration and staff. Station #33 on Fairfax Boulevard is owned by the City. It also has living quarters and locker rooms for men and women. The Charles F "Chic" Seay Public Safety Training Center, located on Colonial Avenue off of Pickett Road, was opened in April 2006. The facility, named in honor and memory of a former City of Fairfax and Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department Chief, is situated on approximately 1.5 acres and is part of the Citgo Tank Farm Property. The facility is used to train volunteer and career staff, police officers, as well as tank farm employees and other City staff. Future plans include a propane fueled automobile simulator, a loading rack simulator and a single family dwelling to train for trapped

or lost firefighters which is currently under construction.

The Office of Building and Fire Code Administration, within the Department of Fire and Rescue Services, is located in City Hall and is responsible for reviewing construction plans to ensure that fire safety code requirements are met and for investigating the causes of fires and damage caused by fires. Code Administration also inspects buildings after construction and occupancy and periodically inspects all public buildings. Programs have been instituted within the department to administer new environmental legislation pertaining to petroleum storage, new OSHA standards pertaining to infectious disease awareness, prevention and follow-up, and increased federal safety in operations standards.

Disaster Relief and Homeland Security

While the City of Fairfax maintains a combination of governmental and volunteer emergency services to respond to local emergencies, these organizations might not be adequate to deal with a major disaster. The proximity of the City of Fairfax to the Nation's Capital gives the City additional reason to coordinate closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The City established the Office of Emergency Management by ordinance in 2008. Under the City's Code, the City Manager acts as the Director of Emergency Services and appoints a coordinator of emergency management with the consent of City Council. The Coordinator's duties include but are not limited to acting as liaison to all emergency response agencies, monitor for and alert of any impending natural or man-made safety issues, develop training schedules for emergency personnel and ensure that the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is kept current.

The State Code (§44-146.19 Emergency Services and Disaster Law) mandates the development of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP establishes a framework through which the City prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impact of a wide variety of disasters that could adversely affect the health, safety and/or general welfare of the residents of the City. Last updated in 2009, the CEMP covers all disciplines and all potential hazards, natural and man-made.

The City is also included in the Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan, which covers Arlington County, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, five cities

Figure PFS-6

EMS, Fire and Public Service Calls, 2005-2010
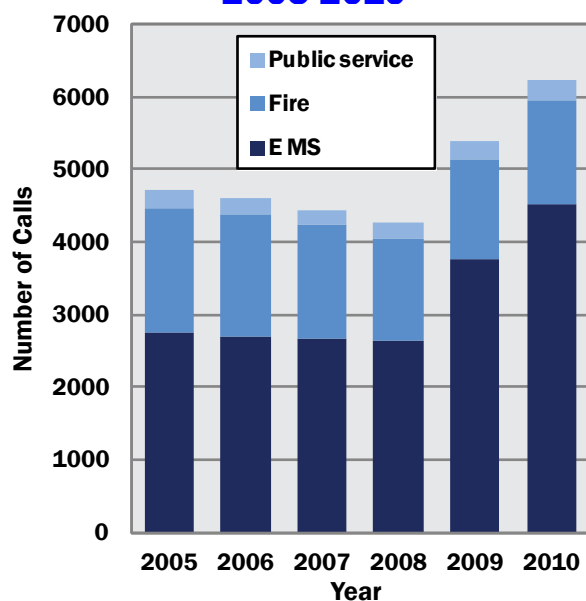
Source: City of Fairfax Fire Department

and eleven towns. Last updated in 2010, the Plan provides risk identification and assessment to determine community vulnerabilities to natural hazards in the region and offers mitigation plans. The Plan is divided into four regions, of which the City of Fairfax is in Planning Area 2. According to the Plan, the City's location on the eastern edge of the Virginia Piedmont make it susceptible to natural hazards and risks, such as storm damage and winter weather. The Plan also notes the potential hazards that make the petroleum tank farm on Pickett Road vulnerable.

Police Services

The Police Department, the primary law-enforcement agency in the City, is responsible for protecting life and property, preventing crime, detecting and apprehending criminal suspects, and maintaining order. In 2010, the Department had an authorized strength of 66 sworn police officers, in addition to civilian personnel who provide a variety of support services (such as secretarial, records management and communications), and part time crossing guards. The Chief of Police oversees four divisions, Administrative Services, Patrol, Support Operations and Criminal Investigations. In an effort to achieve greater efficiencies, the Police Department consolidated two divisions into one Administrative Services Division and allocated additional staffing to core police services such as patrol and investigations. The Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing the Emergency Communications Center, the Property and Evidence Section, Records and Data Processing, and studying new technologies to meet the changing needs of the department and the community. The division is also responsible for developing appropriate policies and procedures, and conducting periodic inspections and audits to ensure compliance.

The Department offers a wide variety of community services from providing orientation materials and information to new residents to making public safety presentations to schools, civic associations and business groups. Progressive police activity, in conjunction with cooperation and coordination with residents through such programs as Block Watch, Operation ID, Citizen Orientation Program, and the Residential Patrol Program, has been a factor in the City's low crime rate. In addition to normal patrol squads, the department fields a uniformed bicycle patrol unit and a K-9 unit.

Police calls for service remain significant, but decreased by 74 calls or 0.5 percent in 2010. These numbers do not include the number of emails, telephone calls, or walk in complaints that are received by supervisors (see Figure PFS-7).

The Department's "Police Service Population" is not based solely on the City's resident population. The service population is a composite of 22,565 City residents, 20,071 City employees, City businesses including 4.7 million square feet of office space and 3.7 million square feet of retail/industrial space, approximately 300,000 vehicles using the City's roadways daily for internal and external motor vehicle traffic, and those persons such as the George Mason students and employees in the surrounding area who travel to or through the City.

Figure PFS-7
Yearly Police Incidents, 2008 - 2010
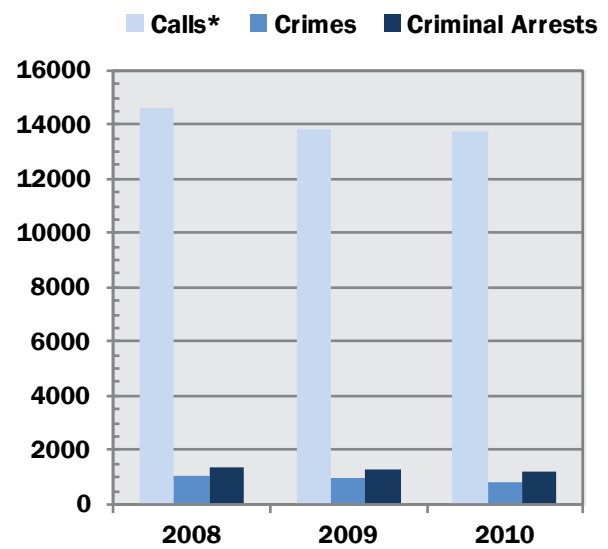
* This total does not include the number of concerns that supervisors received by email, telephone or handled in person.

Source: City of Fairfax Police Department 2010 Annual Report

Administration of Justice

Traffic law violations, misdemeanors and minor civil suits are tried in the General District Court located in City Hall. The General District Court also conducts preliminary hearings for felony cases and operates a small claims division. The court processed 12,563 cases in 2010 – 94 percent of which were for traffic violations.

Felonies and major civil suits are heard in Fairfax County Circuit Court, located within the County's Judicial Complex. The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Branch of the General District Court processes domestic and juvenile cases. All jail and custody service is provided through a contractual arrangement with Fairfax County.

Human Services

Health and Human Services are seamlessly provided to City residents through a variety of contractual agreements with Fairfax County and regional agencies. These services include environmental health, communicable disease and public health services. The Community Health Care Network offers comprehensive health services at three sites to persons whose income falls below 180 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The Northern Virginia Dental Clinic offers comprehensive dental care to adults with limited income. Each of these programs has waiting lists to access services, however.

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board directly or contractually provides a wide range of mental health, intellectual disability and substance abuse services and programs. The Board also offers a single point of entry for persons who may have dual diagnoses.

The City also contracts with Fairfax County and various local human service agencies for the provision of basic social services. Programs administered for the City include Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, the School Aged Child Care Program and subsidized child care services, Adult and Child Protective Services, help for seniors and persons with disabilities, employment services and legal services.

Non-profit agencies in the City offer services to persons who are homeless to assist with meeting basic needs and locating and supporting transitional housing opportunities.

Seniors in the City have access to a variety of programs that can enable them to age in place, consistent with their stated preference. These include Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Solutions, subsidized transportation, recreation programs, Home Repair for the Elderly, case management and Adult Day Health.

The City employs a part-time Human Services Coordinator to ensure that citizens know about and use the services provided by these various agencies. The Human Services Coordinator ensures delivery of services by monitoring City referrals and tracking performance of the contracted agencies.

Public Facilities and Services— Goal, Objectives & Strategies

GOAL: Provide well-maintained facilities and superior services for City residents and businesses.

Objective PF-1 Provide excellent facilities and services to accommodate present and future needs.

Strategies

PFS-1.1 Ensure the equitable and effective distribution of facilities and services in the City.

The majority of City facilities are already in place and, because there is little vacant land remaining in the City, the options for locating additional facilities are limited. Many future projects may provide public amenities as a part of conditioned proffer agreements. An example of this type of arrangement is the recent Old Town Village development that provides free public parking and a landscaped gathering plaza. Improvements to existing public facilities and location of new facilities throughout the City should emphasize accessibility and equitable distribution for all residents.

PFS-1.2 Assure that the public educational needs of City residents are met.

The City should continue to aggressively monitor the City-County school agreement to ensure that City students receive the highest possible quality education programs. City schools should have full access to advanced technology. Special attention should be given to the issue of school facility capacity, to ascertain whether recent trends of increasing enrollment in City schools are temporary or are likely to be sustained trends that may result in changing facility needs. Cooperative work should continue between the City and FCPS to monitor enrollment trends throughout the County to best determine whether City schools are facing enrollment changes similar to or different from other Northern Virginia areas. The City should ascertain the desirability and feasibility of adaptive reuse of former school facilities that have been retained by the City. Educational opportunities should be further expanded by cooperative development of programs with nearby colleges and universities.

PFS-1.3 Ensure that City residents and businesses have equitable access to advanced technologies in interactive communications.

Specific policies for siting telecommunication facilities should be reviewed and periodically updated to ensure that City policy remains applicable with fast-changing communication technologies. Efforts should be made to ensure that these policies ensure excellent communications coverage for the City and region, while protecting aesthetic values and community welfare.

PFS-1.4 Accurately assess existing conditions and periodically revise demographic projections to determine the City's present and future facility and service needs.

In order to successfully provide for the City's public facility and service needs, it is necessary to continually assess current and anticipated demand. The City should fully utilize available demographic, transportation and land use data to assess the adequacy of its public services and facilities and to anticipate future needs. The City should actively participate in the pre-census local review process to ensure accurate results for the decennial Census and other US Census Bureau estimates. In addition, the City should continue to work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) Cooperative Forecasting Subcommittee to ensure accuracy of intercensal estimates.

PFS-1.5 Ascertain citizen opinion on a regular basis to assess the degree of consumer satisfaction with City services and facilities.

Through the use of citizen task forces, coordination with citizen groups, and surveys, the City can periodically assess the amount of use and overall degree of satisfaction with City facilities or services. Regular, direct feedback by program users will provide useful input for program enhancements. Interactive communication through the Internet should also provide a

fast and efficient medium for citizen input, especially open-ended responses. Such feedback is imperative to successfully operate and adjust programs to meet community needs.

PFS-1.6 Continue to inform citizens on a regular and timely basis of the services, programs and facilities available to them.

Because the nature and scope of City services and programs are continually changing, updates of information should be distributed to citizens on a timely basis to promote maximum participation. The online monthly publication of CityScene, the availability of City meetings videos on the City's website, and local cable CityScreen programming are all effective means to distribute citizen information.

Objective PF-2 Maintain superior City facilities and services.

Strategies

PFS-2.1 Continue to maintain historic City-owned properties.

The City should maintain historic properties such as Old Town Hall, the Fairfax Museum and Visitors' Center, the Ratcliffe-Allison House and Historic Blenheim.

PFS-2.2 Plan and provide for investment in infrastructure improvements.

The City should plan for significant investment in infrastructure (such as stormwater management facilities, water and sewer plants and transmission lines, and trails) to keep pace with maintenance requirements in buildings such as schools and administrative buildings, and technological changes so that City facilities will continue to meet community needs and maintain a high quality of life for City residents. This investment should be carefully planned and anticipated through the CIP process.

PFS-2.3 Continue to improve the City's strong recycling program.

The City should strive to increase the types of material collected, reduce the volume of solid waste put out for disposal. In addition, the City should continue to promote the use of recycled materials in City operations.

PFS-2.4 Provide for well-trained and well-equipped police and fire/rescue departments to ensure the public safety, health, and welfare of City residents.

The City should evaluate the use of modern position-located devices, integrated voice data communications, and remote computer access to extend the coordination and reporting resources of a centralized command to mobile and on-foot personnel.

The Community-Involved-Policing program should be continued and strengthened in an effort to make police officers better known to citizens. Representatives of the police department should visit new property owners and offer to orient them to the City, its expectations, and its services. Training and recruitment programs should reflect the increasing need for foreign language skills among police department representatives.

PFS-2.5 Maintain a well-qualified and efficient City work force to provide excellent public service.

The City should continue to hire and retain well-qualified staff, encourage continuing education and training, and provide facilities and equipment to ensure an outstanding level of public service in all City departments and offices.